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2 **ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**  
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4       A method of determining a path through a network. Structures in a network are  
5       grouped into structure groups, each structure group comprising at least two nodes. Virtual  
6       circuit information for every pair of nodes in the structure groups is determined, and  
7       connections between the structure groups is determined. A least cost path is determined from  
8       a first node to a second node using the virtual circuit information and connection information.  
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